

WHERE SATAN'S SEAT IS!

“Of all the tyrannies that affect mankind, tyranny in religion is the worst.”
~ Thomas Paine

In Revelation 2:13-16 God tells the church in Pergamos that they dwell where Satan's throne or system of power is. What tyranny God's House has had to endure!

Rev 2:13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.”

God is not saying this church had become a church of the devil, but that it had in it some of the devil's elements – including Satan's governance structure. Some may argue to “dwell where Satan's throne is,” is only a reference to the location of the church being near a power center of Satan. But if that were the extent of what God was saying, why did He correct them for the **doctrine, teachings, and idolatry** that were present in this Church of God, that He commanded them to repent of? It was more than just “location.” God told them to “repent,” not to move! This system had been allowed by the brethren and ministry to penetrate God's Church. Not so with the Ephesus brethren. They “tried” or “tested” those who made such great claims to office, and they found them out to be liars. They would not “tolerate” or “bear” such false teachers among them, and God praised them for it.

Rev 2:2 I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars.

However the Pergamos branch of God's Church did allow false doctrine and false church governance to exercise lordship over them with disastrous results.

Notice that the Pergamos church will still be in existence when Christ returns, since

Jesus warns them to repent or else He will come to them quickly (verse 16), at His return. This is for our time NOW! This fact may not fit well for those who believe in the “passing of the baton” from one church “era” in time to another, as they would think the message to Pergamos is now historic in nature. That is not what the Bible teaches.

Here is a church that not only had to fight Satan’s influence via the world, but they had to deal with satanic rule or authority right in the church! Lucifer misused his office and authority to turn one-third of the angels against God (Rev.12:4). Satan deceived the whole world (Rev.12:9). That evidently includes many in God’s Church, as Satan’s system of governance had control (Satan’s throne) in the Pergamos Church as well (Rev.22-13). If they do not repent by the time of the return of Christ, He will fight against them with the sword of His mouth. Notice that in verse 16 the verbiage changes from “I will come to YOU,” to “fight against THEM.” Apparently the “them,” are those exercising a satanic government or power in God’s Church, right up to the time of the end! God is warning His Church TODAY to not allow this satanic government structure or these doctrines among us!

What is Satan’s form of governance? It is a system that seeks to exalt itself, even to the point of idolatry. Remember, Satan thought to exalt himself as high as God Himself (Isa.14:14-15). But, he was repelled and humbled (Luke 10:18). As god of this world (2 Cor.4:4), what system did Satan set up among the Gentiles? Let’s see it:

Matt 20:25-28 *“But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.
26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.
27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—
28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

Notice what the *Seiss Apocalypse* commentary says about Rev.2:13-16:

“There was Satan's throne, the darkest center of pagan abominations. It [the Pergamose Church] had faith, and courage, and endurance, and faithful witnesses to Christ; but it had also some of the worst of elements.” Continuing: “It had also those who held to another system of ideas involving tyrannical lordship over the Church: Nicolaitans (people-conquerors).” It goes on to say, “With all its saintship and fidelity, it had need to repent if it would have the approbation of the Lord. It was a church of much praiseworthy fidelity, but with wicked pretences to loftiness and power on the part of some...”

(Rev. 2:12-17) (from *The Apocalypse: Exposition of the Book of Revelation*, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1998 by BibleSoft)

The Nicolaitans were students of Nicolaus. Historians say Nicolaus was a primary student

of Simon Magus. According to historical sources, including the book “The Two Babylons” by Alexander Hislop, Simon Magus was a priest of the pagan gods Janus and Cybele (the gods of doors and hinges, to open and close the way into heaven) who founded a new church in Rome, by “christianizing” pagan teachings, by combining them with the true teachings he learned from Peter (Acts 8:18-23).

William Barclay’s Commentary says of the Nicolaitans that they had achieved control over the people, and that they taught a compromise of God’s truth with the world, in order to avoid “trouble.” They were “**people-controllers**” and compromisers who shared roots with Simon Magus.

God gave accolades to the Ephesian church because they hated the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing God also hates (Rev.2:2-6). It is interesting to note that God also complemented the Ephesian church for “trying those” who claimed to be apostles, but were not. Thus the Nicolaitans’ doctrine included a system of false leadership, just as did the system of Simon Magus, the Pater of Rome.

Here we see a part of the Church of God, which is in existence at the return of Christ, being ruled by a tyrannical, satanically inspired governmental structure! John wrote this prophecy about the pattern of a real church, which was located in what is today western Turkey. During this same time, John also wrote 3rd John, where Diotrephes was misusing his authority to put people out of the church in an attempt to maintain his own “preeminence.” Diotrephes disfellowshipped brethren for listening to and fellowshiping with other ministers in God’s Church that he did not approve of (3 John 9-11)! Perhaps Diotrephes was also influenced by the teachings of Simon Magus or Nicolaus. This type of governance sounds very similar to the “lording over” that Jesus said must not take place among the saints, or he will correct them for it. **Do you dwell where Satan’s throne is?**

Jesus taught, as did Paul, that when one exalts himself, it leads to strife among God’s people. Jesus said that it is a Gentile mindset to seek to exercise lordship and authority over others. That means it is an unconverted carnal way to act and think!

Luke 22:24-27

24 And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

25 And He said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

27 For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth. (KJV)

This is one more way that Satan’s false church governance system – including the pursuit of power and preeminence among some leaders – has led to division and a weakening of

the effectiveness of the people in the Church of God and of the promulgation of the Gospel.